



## Hawaii Regional CG Retiree Council Newsletter

May 9, 2012



### QUARTERLY COUNCIL MEETING, WEDNESDAY 09 May 2012

Our next quarterly meeting is at 1900 on Wednesday 09 May at Club 14. Normally the meetings are held the second Wednesday of the second month of each quarter. We usually complete any business within an hour preceded and followed by a social adjustment period. Let us know if you are not a regular attendee but have an idea or two that might make you more inclined to join. Rod and I will see you there.

### OUR WESITE

It is straight forward and has a link to forward any questions to Rod and Tom. Our newsletter is attached to the site so that it can be opened and viewed. Website: <http://www.uscg.mil/d14/cmd/assoc/rc/> Pass it on to your friends and fellow retirees!

### EMAIL

If you know of any retiree with an e-mail and would like to receive this please have them get a hold of Rod or Tom and we will set you up. If you want to get a message out to everybody on our email list, please send it to Tom or Rod who will, if its "politically correct", relay it to all hands as blind copies. You can call Tom @ 672-9065 (home) or 221-3274 (cell). Please leave a message if I don't pick up.

### BINNACLE LIST

I received a e-mail from Mr. Terry King(CDR Keith King's son) letting me know that his father, CDR Keith King crossed the bar on 3 May 2012 very suddenly. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

Loss of Coast Guard Aircraft 6535

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2012

Posted from Commandant of the Coast Guard Admiral Bob Papp's All Hands e-mail:

Shipmates,

I regret to inform you that last evening, Tuesday, February 28th, CG-6535 from ATC Mobile crashed in Mobile Bay. CG-6535 was flown by a four-person crew and was conducting training operations. A full Coast Guard and interagency search and rescue effort was launched – the aircraft was quickly located. One deceased crewmember was recovered, and extensive efforts continue to locate the other three crewmembers.

I know that everyone desires additional details on the crash and to know the names and status of the crew. We are following the appropriate notification procedures and request your patience and understanding. We will release additional information to all of you as soon as possible.

The aircrew and families must be our first priority. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as we move through the next few days. I am working with senior leadership to ensure we are providing every available resource to meet their needs.

We will conduct a full investigation into this incident to determine the cause. In the mean time, I ask that everyone remain focused on their duties and take deliberate steps to ensure you and your shipmates are standing a taut watch.

Semper Paratus,

Admiral Bob Papp

Commandant

P 191337Z APR 12

FM COMCOGARD PSC ARLINGTON VA

TO ALCGPSC

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UNCLAS //N05360//

ALCGPSC 051/12

SUBJ: HALF-MASTING OF NATIONAL ENSIGN FOR DECEASED SHIPMATES IN KODIAK

A. United States Coast Guard Regulations 1992, COMDTINST M5000.3 (series)

1. In respect of the funerals of two Coast Guard members who died on 12 April 2012 at COMMSTA Kodiak, the National Ensign shall be flown at half mast by all afloat units not underway and at all shore units throughout the Coast Guard on the dates and times shown below, IAW section 14-10 of ref A: A. THU 19 APR 2012, from 2100Z to 2300Z to coincide with the funeral of Mr. Richard W. Belisle, Coast Guard civilian employee and retired BMC, USCG. The funeral in Kodiak AK will be at the Base Chapel.

B. FRI 20 APR 2012, from 2100Z to 2300Z to coincide with the funeral of ET1 James A. Hopkins, USCG. The funeral in Kodiak AK will be at the Base Chapel.

2. RADM D.R. May, Personnel Service Center, sends.

3. Internet release authorized.

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From: Papp, Robert ADM

Sent: Monday, April 23, 2012 7:07 AM

Subject: Commandant's Medical Procedure and Recovery

Shipmates,

This morning I will undergo surgery at Walter Reed National Naval Medical Center (Bethesda) to treat early stage prostate cancer. Fortunately, the cancer was diagnosed early as a result of proactive health screening. Prostate cancer can be very slow in progressing and the prognosis is excellent for my full and speedy recovery.

My early diagnosis is an important reminder of the importance of staying current on health screening, including the annual Periodic Health Assessment (PHA), and for proactive screening for cancer. We each have a duty as Coast Guardsmen to ensure our individual readiness and that we remain Semper Paratus - Always Ready. Taking care of yourself means you'll be there for your family, shipmates and others when they need you.

VADM Sally Brice-O'Hara will be Acting Commandant during the procedure and my initial recovery period. I will return to work and resume command as soon as prudent to do so.

Stand a Taut Watch. Semper Paratus!

Admiral Bob Papp

Commandant

If you know of any local retirees or retiree spouses who are sick or have passed away, please contact: Tommy Dutton Council Co-Chair's [DuttonM003@Hawaii.RR.Com](mailto:DuttonM003@Hawaii.RR.Com) or Rod Schultz, [schultz369@gmail.com](mailto:schultz369@gmail.com)

The updated Survivors Guide has been posted to the PPC Topeka's website:

<http://www.uscg.mil/ppc/RAS/SurvivorGuide.pdf>

#### **QUESTION ON RETIREE DEATH NOTICES on PSC Website**

Our website has been updated to provide a monthly listing of retirees who have crossed the bar. The first list was posted this month. You will find this information on the RAS website, left hand side of the page under TAPS.

<http://www.uscg.mil/ppc/ras/>

#### **WHITE HOUSE TO RETIREES: COUGH UP \$13 BILLION**

The White House released details of its personnel and healthcare budget proposals on Monday, and they confirmed pretty much what MOAA had predicted.

All told, the TRICARE fee proposals envision shifting about \$13 billion in health costs from the Pentagon to retirees over the next 5 years.

The changes would phase in significant fee hikes for nearly every segment of the military population, including retirees of all ages, drilling Guard and Reserve members, and currently serving family members.

TRICARE Prime annual enrollment fees for retired families (currently \$520) would rise as high as \$820 starting October 1, 2012, and rise to as much as \$2,048 within five years, with fees based on military retired pay amount.

TRICARE Standard beneficiaries would start paying a \$140 annual family enrollment fee and a slightly increased deductible (\$320) starting Oct 1, with the enrollment fee and deductible rising to \$250 and \$580, respectively within 5 years. These would be flat fees for all Standard beneficiaries.

Retirees and family members age 65 and older would start paying an annual TRICARE For Life (TFL) enrollment fee of up to \$135 per person starting this Oct. 1. This fee also would be graduated based on retired pay amount, and would rise to as much as \$475 per year within 5 years.

Pharmacy copays for retail and mail-order brand-name medications would more than double (from \$12 to \$26) starting Oct 1. Copays for non-formulary medications that currently cost \$25 would also more than double, to \$51, and availability would be mostly restricted to the mail-order venue, with only limited retail access. The brand-name and non-formulary copays would rise to \$34 and \$66, respectively, within 5 years.

See the attached chart for proposed retired pay eligibility thresholds and year-by-year fee changes.

Under the proposal, medical (chapter 61) retirees and survivors of members who died on active duty would be exempt from these increases. When MOAA asked about other survivors, we were told they would be subject to the new fee scales. The question remains unanswered whether they would all be in the lowest tier, or whether Survivor Benefit Plan annuities might be counted in the same way as retired pay.

Also as expected, the Administration proposes a special commission responsible for recommending changes in the military retirement system for future entrants. The budget envisions that, once submitted to Congress, the proposals would have to be given a "yes or no" vote, as is done with BRAC legislation, with little debate and no opportunity for amendments.

MOAA understands that there will always be new reviews of retirement and other compensation programs, but objects strongly to subverting the normal congressional vetting process for the military retirement system that is so essential to long-term retention and readiness.

Finally, the Administration put additional details on its military pay raise proposal. It envisions no change for FY2013, when the law calls for a 1.7% pay raise to keep pace with private sector pay growth. The budget also calls for a comparability-based raise for FY2014.

But after that, it envisions abandoning the comparability standard, limiting military raises to 0.5% for FY15, 1% for FY16 and 1.5% for FY17.

MOAA believes strongly that maintaining the tie to private sector pay growth is essential. Hard experience shows that, when previous Administrations and Congresses abandoned that link for budgetary purposes, retention and readiness eventually suffered.

"These proposals are a result of last August's Budget Control Act," said Joint Staff Director VADM William Gortney (USN) at a briefing for association leaders.

According to DoD officials, the Budget Control Act created a requirement to cut the defense budget by \$259 billion over 5 years and \$487 billion over 10 years – a requirement MOAA understands all too well.

We also understand that the DoD budget must play a role in solving our nation's debt crisis. But what we take issue with is the Pentagon's first reaction, especially in the healthcare arena, to pass the buck to beneficiaries rather than fulfilling their own responsibilities for efficient management of military healthcare.

We have a tough fight ahead of us, but our battle now is for the hearts and minds of Congress.

Please use MOAA's Web site to urge your legislators to oppose disproportional health fee increases for military beneficiaries.

R 110029Z FEB 12

FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//CG-9//

TO ALCOAST

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UNCLAS //N03100//

ALCOAST 068/12

COMDTNOTE 3100

SUBJ: DELIVERY OF FIRST SENTINEL CLASS FAST RESPONSE CUTTER

1. I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE COAST GUARD TODAY ACCEPTED THE FIRST SENTINEL CLASS FAST RESPONSE CUTTER, BERNARD C. WEBBER, AT SECTOR MIAMI.

2. THE SENTINEL CLASS FAST RESPONSE CUTTERS ARE THE COAST GUARDS NEXT GENERATION OF PATROL BOATS AND WILL EVENTUALLY REPLACE THE VENERABLE 110-FOOT ISLAND CLASS FLEET. THIS CUTTER WILL BE A GAME-CHANGER FOR OUR SERVICE, PROVIDING THE SUPERIOR SPEED AND FLEXIBILITY NEEDED TO SAVE LIVES AND ENSURE MARITIME SECURITY AND STEWARDSHIP. A MODERN, RELIABLE FLEET OF FAST RESPONSE CUTTERS WILL PUT VALUABLE LAW ENFORCEMENT, SEARCH AND RESCUE AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE CAPABILITIES IN THE HANDS OF OUR COAST GUARDSMEN.

3. THE SENTINEL CLASS WILL BE NAMED FOR ENLISTED COAST GUARD HEROES WHO DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES THROUGH ACTS OF COURAGE AND SELFLESSNESS IN SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES.

4. THE FAST RESPONSE CUTTER IS 154 FEET IN LENGTH, DISPLACES 353 LONG TONS, DRAWS 9.5 FEET OF WATER, AND IS ARMED WITH ONE STABILIZED REMOTELY-OPERATED 25MM CHAIN GUN AND FOUR CREW-SERVED .50-CALIBER MACHINE GUNS. THE FAST RESPONSE CUTTER ALSO FEATURES A MIDSHIPS PILOT HOUSE, BOW THRUSTER, TWIN FIXED PITCH PROPELLERS POWERED BY TWO 20 CYLINDER MTU DIESEL ENGINES, ACTIVE FIN STABILIZATION, BERTHING AREAS DESIGNED TO SUPPORT MIXED GENDER CREWS, A COMMON STERN LAUNCHED

OVER THE HORIZON SMALL BOAT CB-OTH, AND MODERN C4ISR EQUIPMENT FEATURING THE LATEST COAST GUARD COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEMS. THE COAST GUARD PLANS TO ACQUIRE 58 FRCS.

5. THE FAST RESPONSE CUTTER WILL CONDUCT MULTI-DAY PATROLS AND HAS A 2,500 HOURS PER YEAR OPERATIONAL EMPLOYMENT TARGET. IT WILL BE CAPABLE OF OPERATIONS UP TO AND INCLUDING SEA STATE 4 (UP TO 7FT SEAS), WITH LIMITED OPERATIONS UP TO SEA STATE 6 (UP TO 20FT SEAS). IT WILL BE CAPABLE OF

SPEEDS OF 28 PLUS KNOTS AND HAVE A COMPLEMENT OF 24 CREW MEMBERS (3 OFFICERS AND 21 ENLISTED).  
6. THE SENTINEL CLASS IS ONE OF MANY CRITICAL RECAPITALIZATION EFFORTS THE COAST GUARD IS MANAGING TO REBUILD THE CAPABILITIES THAT MAKE US THE NATIONS MARITIME GUARDIAN. THE FAST RESPONSE CUTTER

> REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN CAPABILITY AND WILL PROVIDE CONSIDERABLE VALUE TO THE NATION FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

7. RADM JAKE KORN, ASSISTANT COMMANDANT FOR ACQUISITION AND CHIEF ACQUISITION OFFICER, SENDS.

8. INTERNET RELEASE AUTHORIZED.

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R 022317Z APR 12

FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//CCG//

TO ALCOAST

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UNCLAS //N04500//

ALCOAST 154/12

COMDTNOTE 4500

SUBJ: USCGC DALLAS (WHEC 716) DECOMMISSIONING

1. ON 30 MARCH 2012, AFTER 45 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE TO OUR NATION, CUTTER DALLAS WAS DECOMMISSIONED. THROUGHOUT HER SERVICE, CGC DALLAS HAS ALWAYS LIVED UP TO HER MOTTO, SEMPER NOSTRA OPTIMA: ALWAYS OUR BEST.

2. NAMED IN HONOR OF ALEXANDER J. DALLAS, SECRETARY OF TREASURY UNDER PRESIDENT JAMES MADISON (1814-1816), WHEC 716 WAS THE SECOND SHIP IN THE SECRETARY-CLASS CUTTER FLEET AND THE SIXTH CUTTER TO BEAR HIS NAME. CGC DALLAS WAS LAUNCHED FROM AVONDALE SHIPYARDS IN LOUISIANA AND COMMISSIONED ON 26 OCT 1967. ORIGINALLY HOMEPORTED IN GOVERNORS ISLAND, NY, IN 1996 SHE SHIFTED HER HOMEPORT TO CHARLESTON, SC.

3. FROM HER COMMISSIONING, CGC DALLAS HAD A LONG PROUD HISTORY OF SERVING HER COUNTRY. DALLAS SERVED SEVEN COMBAT PATROLS IN VIETNAM, WHERE SHE CONDUCTED COMBAT, LOGISTICS AND HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT MISSIONS. SHE SERVED AS THE COMMAND SHIP DURING THE MARIEL BOATLIFT, DURING WHICH 125,000 CUBAN REFUGEES SET SAIL FOR THE SHORES OF FLORIDA. FOLLOWING THE SPACE SHUTTLE CHALLENGER DISASTER, DALLAS ASSUMED ON-SCENE COMMANDER FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE EFFORTS. SHE REPRESENTED THE COAST GUARD AT THE 50TH ANIVERSARY OF THE D-DAY INVASION. SOON AFTER, DALLAS SERVED AS THE FLAGSHIP OF A FLOTILLA OF 27 COAST GUARD CUTTERS DURING OPERATION ABLE VIGIL, LEADING THE RESPONSE TO ANOTHER MASS MIGRATION FROM CUBA. IN 2008, WHILE DEPLOYED WITH THE U.S. SIXTH FLEET, DALLAS PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION ASSURED DELIVERY, PROVIDING UMANITARIAN SUPPLIES TO THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA.

4. DURING HER LAST YEAR OF SERVICE, CGC DALLAS CRUISED ALL AHEAD FULL, SAILING FOR 177 DAYS AND OVER 27,000 NAUTICAL MILES IN SUPPORT OF WESTERN CARIBBEAN JIATFS COUNTER-DRUG OPERATIONS, AND SEIZED 2647 KG OF COCAINE. I KNOW THAT IT WAS HER HARD WORKING CREWS THAT MADE THESE EXTRAORDINARY ACCOMPLISHMENTS POSSIBLE. THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS THAT GAVE CGC DALLAS LIFE TRULY HONORED OUR PROFESSION.

5. TO CURRENT AND PAST CGC DALLAS CREWS, PLANK OWNERS, SHELLBACKS (GOLDEN, EMERALD, HORNED, OR OTHERWISE), SUBJECTS OF THE GOLDEN DRAGON, BLUE NOSES, AND EVEN POLLYWOGS, WELL DONE. THROUGHOUT 45 YEARS OF SERVICE, DALLAS AND HER CREWS ADMIRABLY SERVED THE COAST GUARD AND THE NATION. CONGRATULATIONS AND BRAVO ZULU.

6. STAND A TAUT WATCH. SEMPER PARATUS.

7. ADM BOB PAPP, COMMANDANT AND GOLD ANCIENT MARINER, SENDS.

8. INTERNET RELEASE IS AUTHORIZED.

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## **Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War**

Attention: Vietnam Veterans

The Department of Defense will host the National Announcement and Proclamation Ceremony for the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. The event will thank and honor those who served in the Vietnam War. This is the first of many celebrations over the next few years honoring our Vietnam Veterans.

WHEN: Memorial Day, May 28, 2012,

TIME: 1 pm

WHERE: Vietnam War Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. (The Wall)

This morning TREA: The Enlisted Association was informed that they have reserved 40 tickets for our Vietnam Veterans and their families to attend and be honored.

If you would be interested in attending this function, we need to know by Friday, April 13, 2012, at 4 pm (Eastern Time). Contact Deidre Parke Holleman in our Washington office at [dholleman@treadc.org](mailto:dholleman@treadc.org). She will need the full name, full address and date of birth for each attendee. The Office of the Secretary of Defense will issue a formal invitation to the individuals we provide to them.

If you are not a Vietnam Vet, and interested in going, please let Deirdre know. Priority will be given to Vietnam Vets and their families.

Please note that if you are planning on going to Arlington Cemetery for the Memorial Day services, you will not have the time to also go to these events.

Don't delay if you are interested, the deadline is THIS FRIDAY!!

TREA: The Enlisted Association

National Headquarters

email: [treahq@trea.org](mailto:treahq@trea.org)

Phone: 800-338-9337

Fax: 303-752-0835

Washington Legislative Office

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Phone: 800-554-8732

Fax: 703-548-4876

How much did you make when your military service began? I've sent this particular link around a few times in the past. As my distribution list continues to grow - I thought it might be fun to send it around again:

<http://www.military.com/benefits/content/military-pay/charts/historical-military-pay-rates.html?comp=7000022859188&rank=2>

